

# ***CRIME IN NEBRASKA***

## **PRELIMINARY 2000 REPORT**

### **2% INCREASE IN CRIME IN 2000**

The number of crimes reported to Nebraska law enforcement agencies increased 2 percent in 2000 compared to 1999. There were 69,861 crimes reported during January through December of 2000, compared to 68,584 reported during the same period of 1999, an increase of 1,277 crimes. These numbers include only the crimes of Murder-Manslaughter, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson which serve as the *Crime Index* used to measure crime both statewide and nationally. Violent crimes (Murder-Manslaughter, Forcible Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault) decreased 21 percent. There were 5,644 violent crimes reported in 2000 compared to 7,161 reported in 1999, a decrease of 1,517 crimes. Property crimes (Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson) increased 5 percent. There were 64,217 property crimes reported in 2000 compared to 61,423 reported in 1999, an increase of 2,794 crimes.

Crime increased 2 percent in Omaha and 6 percent in Lincoln. Cities of 5,000 to 99,999 population had a 1 percent increase; cities under 5,000 population had a 10 percent decrease; and county areas reported a 1 percent decrease. Crimes occurring on State property increased 8 percent from 1999.

### **Crime Index Offenses, 1999 - 2000**

| <i>Crime Index Offenses</i> | <i>Number of Crime Index Offenses</i> |               |            |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|------------|
|                             | 1999                                  | 2000          | % Change   |
| <b>Violent Crimes</b>       | <b>7,161</b>                          | <b>5,644</b>  | <b>-21</b> |
| Murder - Manslaughter       | 60                                    | 60            | 0          |
| Forcible Rape               | 412                                   | 432           | +5         |
| Robbery                     | 1,262                                 | 1,150         | - 9        |
| Aggravated Assault          | 5,427                                 | 4,002         | -26        |
| <b>Property Crimes</b>      | <b>61,423</b>                         | <b>64,217</b> | <b>+5</b>  |
| Burglary                    | 10,052                                | 9,929         | - 1        |
| Larceny-Theft               | 45,482                                | 48,602        | +7         |
| Motor Vehicle Theft         | 5,400                                 | 5,180         | - 4        |
| Arson                       | 489                                   | 506           | +3         |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>68,584</b>                         | <b>69,861</b> | <b>+2</b>  |

### **NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

MIKE JOHANNIS  
GOVERNOR

(402) 471-2194

ALLEN L. CURTIS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Percent Change - Crime Index Offenses**  
**January thru December, 1999 - 2000 by Population Groups**

| <i>Population Group</i> |                 | <i>Murder, Man-slaughter</i> | <i>Forcible Rape</i> | <i>Robbery</i> | <i>Aggravated Assault</i> | <i>Burglary</i> | <i>Larceny Theft</i> | <i>Motor Vehicle Theft</i> | <i>Arson</i> | <i>Total</i>  |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 250,000 & Over          | 1999            | 34                           | 174                  | 960            | 3,445                     | 3,516           | 14,530               | 3,586                      | 232          | 26,477        |
|                         | 2000            | 37                           | 189                  | 875            | 3,063                     | 3,373           | 16,902               | 3,380                      | 230          | 27,049        |
|                         | % Change        | + 9                          | + 9                  | - 9            | -40                       | - 4             | +16                  | - 6                        | - 1          | + 2           |
| 100,000 to 249,999      | 1999            | 9                            | 82                   | 162            | 965                       | 1,886           | 9,782                | 513                        | 42           | 13,441        |
|                         | 2000            | 3                            | 95                   | 147            | 956                       | 1,974           | 10,475               | 511                        | 23           | 14,184        |
|                         | % Change        | -67                          | +16                  | - 9            | - 1                       | + 5             | + 7                  | 0                          | -45          | + 6           |
| 5,000 to 99,999         | 1999            | 7                            | 98                   | 95             | 542                       | 2,134           | 13,060               | 697                        | 113          | 16,746        |
|                         | 2000            | 7                            | 76                   | 100            | 508                       | 2,168           | 13,266               | 751                        | 117          | 16,993        |
|                         | % Change        | --                           | -22                  | + 5            | - 6                       | + 2             | + 2                  | + 8                        | + 4          | + 1           |
| Under 5,000             | 1999            | 1                            | 8                    | 1              | 88                        | 339             | 1,706                | 89                         | 11           | 2,243         |
|                         | 2000            | 1                            | 13                   | 5              | 74                        | 344             | 1,478                | 77                         | 28           | 2,020         |
|                         | % Change        | --                           | +63                  | +400           | -16                       | + 1             | -13                  | -13                        | +155         | -10           |
| Counties                | 1999            | 9                            | 46                   | 40             | 375                       | 2,108           | 5,917                | 514                        | 91           | 9,100         |
|                         | 2000            | 12                           | 58                   | 23             | 385                       | 1,999           | 5,949                | 456                        | 108          | 8,990         |
|                         | % Change        | +33                          | +26                  | -43            | + 3                       | - 5             | + 1                  | -11                        | +19          | - 1           |
| State Property          | 1999            | 0                            | 4                    | 4              | 12                        | 69              | 487                  | 1                          | 0            | 577           |
|                         | 2000            | 0                            | 1                    | 0              | 16                        | 71              | 532                  | 5                          | 0            | 625           |
|                         | % Change        | 0                            | -75                  | -100           | +33                       | + 3             | + 9                  | +400                       | --           | + 8           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>1999</b>     | <b>60</b>                    | <b>412</b>           | <b>1,262</b>   | <b>5,427</b>              | <b>10,052</b>   | <b>45,482</b>        | <b>5,400</b>               | <b>489</b>   | <b>68,584</b> |
|                         | <b>2000</b>     | <b>60</b>                    | <b>432</b>           | <b>1,150</b>   | <b>4,002</b>              | <b>9,929</b>    | <b>48,602</b>        | <b>5,180</b>               | <b>506</b>   | <b>69,861</b> |
|                         | <b>% Change</b> | <b>0</b>                     | <b>+ 5</b>           | <b>- 9</b>     | <b>-26</b>                | <b>- 1</b>      | <b>+ 7</b>           | <b>- 4</b>                 | <b>+ 3</b>   | <b>+ 2</b>    |

---

**0.2% DECREASE IN TOTAL ARRESTS**

The total number of persons arrested in Nebraska during 2000 decreased 0.2%, from 96,558 in 1999 to 96,395 in 2000. The top five categories in terms of the number of arrests made for specific crimes were: Driving under the Influence (11,747 arrests), Liquor Law Violations (11,448), Larceny-Theft (9,685), Simple Assault (9,870), and Drug Abuse Violations (10,070). The total number of adult arrests (age 18 and Over) increased 1% from 76,970 in 1999 to 77,967 in 2000. Adult arrests accounted for 81% of the total arrests made statewide. The total number of juvenile arrests decreased 6%, from 19,588 in 1999 to 18,428 in 2000.

**Total Arrest Trends, 1999 - 2000**

| <i>Offense</i>                | <i>Under 18 Years of Age</i> |               |            | <i>18 Years of Age and Over</i> |               |           | <i>Total All Ages</i> |               |             |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|
|                               | 1999                         | 2000          | Percent    | 1999                            | 2000          | Percent   | 1999                  | 2000          | Percent     |
|                               |                              |               | Change     |                                 |               | Change    |                       |               | Change      |
| Murder - Manslaughter         | 3                            | 3             | 0          | 42                              | 47            | +12       | 45                    | 50            | +11         |
| Death by Negligence           | 0                            | 1             | --         | 32                              | 14            | -56       | 32                    | 15            | -53         |
| Forcible Rape                 | 19                           | 22            | +16        | 143                             | 132           | - 8       | 162                   | 154           | - 5         |
| Robbery                       | 89                           | 81            | - 9        | 232                             | 230           | - 1       | 321                   | 311           | - 3         |
| Aggravated Assault            | 121                          | 122           | +1         | 771                             | 826           | +7        | 892                   | 948           | +6          |
| Burglary                      | 498                          | 438           | -12        | 660                             | 729           | +10       | 1,158                 | 1,167         | +1          |
| Larceny-Theft                 | 4,428                        | 4,006         | -10        | 5,644                           | 5,679         | +1        | 10,072                | 9,685         | - 4         |
| Motor Vehicle Theft           | 252                          | 207           | -18        | 239                             | 252           | +5        | 491                   | 459           | - 7         |
| Arson                         | 122                          | 119           | - 2        | 42                              | 26            | -38       | 164                   | 145           | -12         |
| Simple Assault                | 1,852                        | 1,824         | - 2        | 8,119                           | 8,046         | - 1       | 9,971                 | 9,870         | - 1         |
| Forgery and Counterfeiting    | 85                           | 72            | -15        | 760                             | 786           | +3        | 845                   | 858           | +2          |
| Fraud                         | 103                          | 123           | +19        | 1,828                           | 1,934         | +6        | 1,931                 | 2,057         | +7          |
| Embezzlement                  | 21                           | 18            | -14        | 133                             | 138           | +4        | 154                   | 156           | +1          |
| Stolen Property Offenses      | 372                          | 281           | -24        | 747                             | 853           | +14       | 1,119                 | 1,134         | +1          |
| Vandalism                     | 1,217                        | 1,344         | +10        | 1,786                           | 1,858         | +4        | 3,003                 | 3,202         | +7          |
| Weapons Violations            | 224                          | 201           | -10        | 882                             | 860           | - 2       | 1,106                 | 1,061         | -4          |
| Prostitution/Commercial. Vice | 5                            | 9             | +80        | 352                             | 464           | +32       | 357                   | 473           | +32         |
| Sex Offenses                  | 115                          | 141           | +23        | 527                             | 551           | +5        | 642                   | 692           | +8          |
| Drug Abuse Violations         | 1,357                        | 1,384         | +2         | 7,702                           | 8,686         | +13       | 9,359                 | 10,070        | +8          |
| Gambling                      | 3                            | 2             | -33        | 94                              | 48            | -49       | 97                    | 50            | -48         |
| Offenses Ag. Family/Children  | 26                           | 30            | +15        | 1,435                           | 1,454         | +1        | 1,461                 | 1,484         | +2          |
| Driving Under the Influence   | 483                          | 420           | -13        | 12,524                          | 11,327        | -10       | 13,007                | 11,747        | -10         |
| Liquor Law Violations         | 2,760                        | 2,551         | - 8        | 8,460                           | 8,897         | +5        | 11,220                | 11,448        | +2          |
| Disorderly Conduct            | 866                          | 822           | - 5        | 3,935                           | 3,596         | - 9       | 4,801                 | 4,418         | - 8         |
| All Other Offenses            | 3,352                        | 3,160         | - 6        | 19,881                          | 20,534        | +3        | 23,233                | 23,694        | +2          |
| Curfew / Loitering            | 808                          | 670           | -17        |                                 |               |           | 808                   | 670           | -17         |
| Runaways                      | 407                          | 377           | - 7        |                                 |               |           | 407                   | 377           | - 7         |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>19,588</b>                | <b>18,428</b> | <b>- 6</b> | <b>76,970</b>                   | <b>77,967</b> | <b>+1</b> | <b>96,558</b>         | <b>96,395</b> | <b>-0.2</b> |

## A REVIEW OF HATE CRIMES IN NEBRASKA

With the passage of Legislative Bill 90 in 1997, commonly referred to as the Hate Crime Bill, the Crime Commission developed a system for reporting hate crimes. Law enforcement agencies voluntarily submit quarterly reports to the Commission on the number of hate crime incidents. If a hate crime has been committed, they report the type of crime committed, a general description of the location, and the type of bias motivation. Of the 162 law enforcement agencies asked to participate in hate crime reporting, 107 agencies submitted at least one quarterly report during 2000 with 58 of those agencies reporting all four quarters.

During 2000, there were a total of 18 incidents reported involving crimes motivated by hate. This is a 36% decrease from the 28 reported in 1999. The types of bias motivation are provided below.

| Type of Bias                       | Number    | Percent      |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| <b>Racial</b>                      | <b>10</b> | <b>55.6</b>  |
| White                              | 1         |              |
| Black                              | 7         |              |
| Asian                              | 1         |              |
| American Indian                    | 1         |              |
| <b>Ethnicity / National Origin</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>11.1</b>  |
| Hispanic                           | 2         |              |
| <b>Religious</b>                   | <b>2</b>  | <b>11.1</b>  |
| Jewish                             | 1         |              |
| Other                              | 1         |              |
| <b>Sexual</b>                      | <b>3</b>  | <b>16.7</b>  |
| Male Homosexual                    | 2         |              |
| Other                              | 1         |              |
| <b>Gender</b>                      | <b>1</b>  | <b>5.6</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>18</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Four of the 18 incidents were perpetrated against an organization (government, religious organization, etc.), while the majority of the incidents (56%) were directed toward an individual.

The general location where the hate crimes occurred and the type of crime committed are provided below. The majority of incidents occurred at a residence or in a public area. The majority of hate crimes (67%) are carried out through a direct confrontation with the victim while 28% are carried out by destroying property of the victim.

| Location                        | Number    | Percent      |
|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Church                          | 1         | 5.6          |
| Commercial                      | 3         | 16.7         |
| Gas Station                     | 1         | 5.6          |
| Residence                       | 6         | 33.3         |
| School                          | 1         | 5.6          |
| Public Area (Street, Park, etc. | 4         | 22.2         |
| Other                           | 2         | 11.1         |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>18</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

| Type of Crime      | Number    | Percent      |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Aggravated Assault | 1         | 5.0          |
| Simple Assault     | 4         | 20.0         |
| Intimidation       | 7         | 35.0         |
| Burglary           | 1         | 5.0          |
| Vandalism          | 6         | 30.0         |
| Trespassing        | 1         | 5.0          |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>31</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

(Some incidents involved multiple crimes being committed.)

*PLEASE NOTE: Caution should be used when comparing the percent changes presented within this report. A slight shift in the volume of crimes or arrests may result in a large percent change for some offenses, arrests, and population groups. Final figures for 2000 will be published in the annual report "Crime in Nebraska - 2000."*